National Park Service
Southwest Border Resource Protection Program (SWBRPP)
Guidelines and Selection Criteria

PURPOSE OF PROGRAM: To provide technical and financial assistance to parks along the international border to achieve common goals with our Mexican partners, maintain cooperative relationships, mitigate impacts on cultural and natural resources, engage new partners and communities in environmental stewardship, and increase appreciation and understanding of our shared cultural heritage.

WHO MAY APPLY: Any park unit or program office in the Intermountain Region is eligible to apply for SWBRPP funding funds. Educational institutions, private non-profit organizations, state and local governments and tribal governments are also eligible to apply. Foreign organizations and governments outside the United States and its territories are not eligible to apply.

WHAT KINDS OF PROJECTS WILL BE FUNDED:
Projects must benefit a unit of the National Park Service, national heritage area, trail or historic site within the Intermountain Region by addressing cultural or natural resource issues shared by the U.S. and Mexico. Project categories include:

- o Research
    - Documentation involving *cultural resources* such as:
        - Identification, research, and evaluation of archeological and historic sites
        - National Register of Historic Places nominations
        - National Historic Landmark nominations
    - Research involving *natural resource* issues such as:
        - Wildlife habitat management
        - Inventory and monitoring of invasive plants and animals
        - Impacts from climate change to endangered species
        - Assessments the effects of border activities on threatened and endangered species

- o Protection:
    - Preservation of *cultural resources* such as:
        - Stabilization, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic structures, trails, archeological sites, and landscapes
        - Conservation of collections
    - Conservation and preservation of *natural resources* such as:
        - Reestablishment of natural processes and ecological systems
        - Monitoring of resource damage caused by human developments
        - Protection and conservation endangered and threatened species
        - Integrated pest management planning
        - Restoration of native wildlife and vegetation, including removal of exotic species
- o Education/Interpretation/Information Sharing
    - Professional training and exchange such as:
        - Student intern programs

- Workshops, seminars, symposia, training programs
- Binational conferences
- Informational network gatherings
- Development of interpretive materials, programs, workshops

Establishment of sisterparks including:
- Initial workshops/meetings to develop partnership agreements, and followup activities to create action plan

WHAT MAY NOT BE FUNDED:
- Fundraising or the formulation of fundraising plans
- Lobbying
- Long-term maintenance or curatorial work.
- Core organizational operations / permanent staff positions

HOW TO APPLY:

National Park Units:
To submit a PMIS application, follow the instructions below. This allows you to submit a request for SWBRPP funding outside of the Service-wide Comprehensive Call.

1.) Log into PMIS and click on Create Non-facility project
2.) Enter all information necessary for developing a project in PMIS (be sure to select Requested Funding FY = 2017).
3.)Click on the Review Project icon at the top of the project and then click on the Approved button. Click "Save Changes". If you don't have rights to do this, please have your Park PMIS Administrator complete this step.
4.)If you want to remove the Add-On costs, scroll down to the Project Funding Component section, click on the Edit Component icon, scroll down to the Add-Ons section, change the default percentages to zero, scroll down and click on "Save Add-Ons", scroll to and click on "Save and Continue", and click on "OK".
5.)Next, click on the Eligible Funding Categories icon in the Project Funding Component section. Scroll down the alphabetical list to "SW Border Resource Protection Program" and click on the box next to it. *NOTE: Please be careful not to choose the SW Border Resource Restoration Program. Then scroll down to the bottom of the screen and click "Save Changes".
6.)Click on the Additional Criteria icon in the Project Funding Component section and write a narrative addressing the 5 evaluation criteria.
7.)E-mail "IMR PMIS Support" or call Eric Holliday 303-969-2639 or Rod Rivera at 303-969-2531 with the PMIS number so we can execute a "Mark Exception" on the project. PLEASE NOTE: Eric and Rod will become busier as they approach year end.
8.)Once this is done, we will let you know that you can then submit the Project Funding Component section. To do so, click on the Submit Component icon, click on the Submitted button, click "Save Changes", and click "OK".
NOTE: Please send in letters of support and/or any supporting documentation separately by mail (see address below) or email to Krista_Muddle@nps.gov.

Non-NPS applicants:

Locate Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) P17AS00487on the federal grants website and follow the instructions in the notice. Be sure to include all required and additional documents with your application package. All materials must be received by September 1, 2017.

Please send completed application packages to:

Postal Service Delivery:	*Express Delivery:*
National Park Service	National Park Service
ATTN: Krista Muddle	ATTN: Krista Muddle
P.O. Box 25287	12795 West Alameda Pkwy. Suite 370
Denver, CO 80225-0287	Lakewood, CO 80228-2838

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS: The maximum funding limit is $50,000 annually per project unless extraordinary circumstances, deemed appropriate by Department of Interior leadership, apply. Applicants may submit up to three projects for consideration. While funds will not require matching contributions, it is highly recommended that a match is sought through partners.

MULTI-YEAR/RECURRING PROJECTS: Projects that involve multi-year efforts are eligible for consideration, but please note that these are **one-year funds** that must be obligated by September 30th, 2018. Projects that are multi-year in nature must compete for funding each fiscal year and cannot exceed two years. Projects must be set up as such when initially proposed; proposals must include a scope of work or work plan defining each year's efforts and documenting each year's proposed costs. Multi-year projects must show demonstrable progress, with a beginning, middle, and end point.

PROJECT REPORTING: All funded recipients provide status and completion reports. At least one key milestone achieved by a designated date and a project completion date must be identified in the project summary. Funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis to non-NPS organizations, institutions and state, local and tribal governments. NPS will not provide advance payments. To receive reimbursement, recipients must submit a reimbursement request to SWBRPP, accompanied by a progress report and any additional documentation specified in the agreement. Funded recipients will be required to register with the Automated Standard Application for Payment (ASAP). Go to the Treasury website for enrollment information.

PLEASE NOTE: *Failure to comply with required reports may jeopardize opportunities to compete for SWBRPP funds in the future.*

ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-NPS APPLICANTS:

- Applicants must have a DUNS number to receive funding. To determine if your organization has a DUNS number, contact your institution's administrator or chief financial officer, or go to Dun & Bradstreet's website. Applicants may request a free number at the website by following the steps for federal government contractors and recipients, or by calling 1-866-705-5711.

- Applicants must be registered with the System for Award Management (SAM) to receive funding. Applicants may register at the [SAM website](). Please note that you must have a DUNS number in order to register with SAM. For questions related to SAM, please contact Alexandra Hernandez at 303-969-2846 or by email at Alexandra_Hernandez@nps.gov.
- Selected applicants must sign a cooperative agreement with the NPS, and agree to all attachments, certifications and assurances. The agreement must show how the project meets a public purpose and has substantial involvement by the National Park Service.

PROGRAM EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SELECTION PROCESS: Each application will be evaluated by a panel of subject matter experts using the criteria specified below. All projects must directly benefit a National Park Service unit.

All applicants must provide a brief description either on the proposal template or, for NPS applicants, in your PMIS proposal template for each of the following evaluation criteria.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

NPS will evaluate and consider only those applications that separately address each of the merit review criteria. Each applicant is required to provide a detailed narrative of the following criteria elements. It is HIGHLY recommended that the project narrative have sections labeled as follows:

Criterion 1	
Project Addresses a Critical Need	Weight 20%
Applicants scoring highest in this category will demonstrate:	Project is critical to protecting resource(s). Delaying the project will result in resource damage that is extensive or likely irreversible. Undertaking the project now will prevent significantly worse problems later and loss of an important opportunity. Delaying the project will result in a significant health or safety hazard to humans.

Criterion 2	
Significance of the Resource or Issue	Weight 20%
Applicants scoring highest in this category will demonstrate:	Resource possesses national or international significance, such as a World Heritage Site or National Natural or Historic Landmark status for cultural resources and is defined as unique, or unparalleled. Resource is an integral component of the park or protected area's ecosystem and purpose. The project addresses a resource that is considered significant to both the U.S. and Mexico.

Criterion 3	
Partnership Participation Weight 20% **Note**: Letters of support from each national park unit involved in the project as well as potential partners should accompany the proposal to document the willingness to participate in the project if funded and how.	

Applicants scoring highest in this category will demonstrate:	The partnership includes multiple resource providers such as non-governmental organizations, land management agencies or educational institutes that have demonstrated success in working directly with Mexico. The partner or partners will provide **matching funds or in-kind support** for the project. The project involves resource protection and/or educational activities on both sides of the international border.

Criterion 4	
Cost Effectiveness	Weight 20%
Applicants scoring highest in this category will demonstrate:	The budget is well-developed, describing costs associated with specific tasks, and reflects reasonable costs and allocation of funds. Alternative ways of doing this project have been researched, and this is the most cost-effective way of achieving the project benefits. (*Describe the alternatives that have been considered*.) The benefit to the resource, in relation to the cost, is very high. Costs are realistic, well-researched, clearly spelled out in a detailed budget, apportioned for each deliverable/product or result, and supported by examples. All work elements are specifically identified with their associated costs; all expenses are necessary, reasonable and appropriate. Partner costs and contributions are clearly identified. The proposal uses funding monies to leverage non-National Park Service funds or in-kind services.

Criterion 5	
Project Produces Tangible Results	Weight 20%
Applicants scoring highest in this category will demonstrate:	The proposed project implements specific management prescriptions that will result in the final resolution of a natural or cultural resource issue or threat; or the project develops the information necessary for implementing management actions that will resolve the issue or threat. For a management problem, no additional actions other than follow-up monitoring are anticipated; or for projects involving lack of information, no additional information is needed or required and the park has specific plans to take action as a result of having this information. Needed expertise has been identified and compliance requirements will be met.

HOW PROJECTS ARE SELECTED:

The selection panel, a panel of National Park Service experts representing applicable cultural and natural resource disciplines will review and evaluate all eligible applications according to the criteria above. The panel will provide recommendations to the Director of the Intermountain Region Office, who will announce the list of funded projects.

WHEN FUNDING WILL BE ANNOUNCED:

We anticipate that the successful recipients and projects will be announced in October of 2017 and the funding will be awarded in the new fiscal year as soon as funds are appropriated by Congress.